AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS;

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Original) A host cell comprising one or more polynucleotides, wherein said one or more polynucleotides encode a protein of interest and a genetic element capable of reducing a protease activity in a host cell or fluids, wherein said one or more polynucleotides is capable of expressing said protein of interest in the host cell, wherein said protease activity is capable of cleaving said protein of interest, wherein said protein of interest is non-native to the host cell.

Claim 2. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 1, wherein said genetic element (1) expresses an antisense or sense element capable of reducing expression of a protein with said protease activity in said host cell, (2) expresses a ribozyme capable of reducing expression of a protein with said protease activity in said host cell, (3) induces expression of a protease inhibitor native to said host cell in said host cell, or (4) expresses a protease inhibitor in said host cell.

Claim 3. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 2, wherein said genetic element expresses an antisense or sense element capable of reducing expression of a protein with said protease activity in said host cell.

Claim 4. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 3, wherein said antisense or sense element comprises a nucleotide sequence that is substantially similar to the antisense or sense nucleotide sequence of a protease.

Claim 5. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 4, wherein said antisense or sense element comprises the antisense or sense nucleotide sequence of said protease.

Claim 6. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 5, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

Claim 7. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 5, wherein said protease is native to said host cell.

Claim 8. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 5, wherein said protease is a serine protease.

Claim 9. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 8, wherein said serine protease is a chymotrypsin-like serine protease or a subtilisin-like serine protease.

Claim 10. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 9, wherein said subtilisin-like serine protease is a Nicotianalisin protein and the host is a plant cell.

Claim 11. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 1, wherein said protein of interest is a protein not native to the host cell.

Claim 12. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 11, wherein said protein is a human protein.

Claim 13. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 12, wherein said human protein is human growth hormone.

Claim 14. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 1, wherein said first polynucleotide is non-native to said host cell.

Claim 15. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 14, wherein said polynucleotide encoding the protein of interest inserted into a viral vector.

Claim 16. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 15, wherein said viral vector is obtained from a RNA virus.

Claim 17. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 11, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

Claim 18. (Original) The plant cell according to Claim 17, wherein said one or more polynucleotides is in a vector.

Claim 19. (Original) The plant cell according to Claim 17, wherein the polynucleotide encoding a protein of interest and/or the polynucleotide encoding a genetic element capable of reducing a protease activity is integrated into the plant genome.

Claim 20. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide encoding the genetic element is inserted into a viral vector.

Claim 21. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 1, wherein said genetic element encodes a protease inhibitor.

Claim 22. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 21, wherein said protease inhibitor is aprotinin.

Claim 23. (Original) The host cell according to Claim 21, wherein said genetic element and said polynucleotide encoding a protein of interest are both inserted into a vector.

Claim 24. (Original) The plant cell according to Claim 23, wherein said polynucleotides encoding said genetic element and said protein of interest are fused together to produce a fused protein product.

Claim 25. (Original) The plant cell comprising the plant cell according to claim 6.

Claim 26. (Original) A plant comprising the plant cell according to Claim 17.

Claim 27. (canceled)

Claim 28. (Original) A method of reducing the amount of a protein of interest cleaved by a hydrolase activity in a host cell, comprising the steps of:
(a) introducing a polynucleotide into a host cell, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a genetic element capable of reducing a hydrolase activity in said host cell; and
(b) expressing a protein of interest in said host cell, wherein said protein of interest is capable of expression in said host cell, wherein said protein of interest is capable of being cleaved by said hydrolase activity; whereby the amount of protein of interest cleaved by said hydrolase activity in said host cell is reduced compared to the amount of protein of interest cleaved by said hydrolase activity in another host cell in which said polynucleotide is not introduced.

Claim 29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein said protein of interest is heterologous to said host.

Claim 30. (Original) The method according to Claim 28, further comprising the step of isolating the protein of interest from said host cell or fluid.

Claim 31. (Original) The method according to claim 28 wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

Claim 32. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein said polynucleotide is in a vector.

Claim 33. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein said hydrolase is a protease.

Claim 34. (Original) A vector containing a genetic element capable of reducing protease activity and a polynucleotide encoding a protein of interest.

Claim 35-37. (Canceled)